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East Lansing

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Lansing



Friends of Michigan History, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Michigan Historical Museum

Lansing, Michigan

February 9, 2009

Call to Order

President Bus Spaniola called the of the Board of Directors (Board) meeting of the Friends of Michigan History, Inc. (Friends) to order at 10:00 AM.

Board Members Present: Larry Griffin, Keith Harrison, John Irwin, Richard Johnson, Rose Moye, Bus Spaniola, Charles Seeley, Morris Thomas, Paul Tarr, Tom Truscott, Ralph Sims, Louise Stilwill, Geneva Kebler Wiskemann, and Bill Wellman.

Board Members Absent: David Brickey, Adriana Greci Green, and John Irwin.

Board Members Excused: Adriana Greci Green and John Irwin.

Michigan Historical Museum (Museum) Staff Present: Chris Dancisak, Martha Bloomfield, and Phil Kwiatkowski.

Guests Present: None.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda as presented; motion passed.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve as transmitted the minutes from the January 2009 Board meeting; motion passed.

President Report

President Spaniola talked about the uncertainty about the impact with the Governor's order to terminate the Department of History, Arts, and Libraries (HAL). The budget is scheduled to come out on Thursday, which will better define how this will take place. It is anticipated that the HAL Administration will be deleted and the various department functions dispersed among other existing state departments. A general discussion ensued with concerns being expressed about where the various HAL functions would end up and what, if anything, the Board could do to influence any of the decisions. It was indicated by President Spaniola that the Executive Committee plus other Board members if available should get together once the budget was published and then decide how best the Board could proceed. In the interim, it was suggested that various Board members were encouraged to contact any contacts that they may have in state government to express their concerns about this impending action.

Bill Wellman indicated that should Michigan History Magazine be one of the area cut that Harbor House publishers might be interest in taking this over.

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Treasurer Report

BALANCE	01-01-09	9,566.15
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DEPOSITS

1-09-09	330.00	
1-20-09	<u>1,287.55</u>	
	1,617.55	<u>+1,617.55</u>

TOTAL		11,183.70
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Cashed Checks

1417	Engineering Graphics	862.00	
1418	Engineering Graphics	783.00	
1419	Fayette	153.20	
1421	Dancizak	371.05	
1422	Morton Catering	<u>300.00</u>	
Total		2,469.25	<u>-2,469.25</u>

BALANCE	01-30-09	8,714.45
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Uncashed Check		
1420	Walker Tavern	93.20
		<u>- 93.20</u>

Available Funds		8,621.25
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Benevolent Fund	50.00	
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A motion was made and seconded to approve, as transmitted, the Treasurer's report for the period January 1 January 31, 2009 and that a letter be sent to those vendors that have provided free service; motion passed.

Presentation of Bills

A series of bills were presented; however, all of them had been approved previously at earlier Board meetings. No action was required. There were no new bills presented.

Museum Report

Chris Dancisak indicated that the Museum will be celebrating its 20th anniversary in May 30th along with annual program of Be a Tourist in your Own City. He asked the Board members if they knew the whereabouts of any old employees or Board members, to let him know in order that they could be invited back for this celebration. ,

Committee Reports

A. 2009 Veterans Day Program Committee (Paul Tarr and Larry Griffin – Co chairs): It was suggested that the 2009 Veterans Day program bed geared towards US service in Iraq and Afghanistan. It also was suggested that we bring back the high school choir for the 2009 program. There was concern expressed that our outreach to other organizations to participate

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in the massing of the colors was greatly lacking needed to be worked on for 2009. There was almost no participation last year.

B. *Membership Committee (Keith Harrison – Chair)*. It was indicated that Dick Johnson would be going to Grand Rapids program to staff the Friends membership table. President Spaniola thought that he might be able to do the same on Tuesday.

C. *Board Nominating Committee (Charles Seeley and Tom Truscott)*. No report.

D. *Magazine/Military Committee (Paul Tarr – Chair)*. No report.

E. *Grants Committee (Adriana Greci Green - Chair)*. No report.

F. *Newsletter Committee (Paul Tarr and Bill Wellman, Co-chairs)*. Paul Tarr indicated that articles were now being accepted for the next newsletter. It was indicated the material regarding Collette travel as a membership benefit did not get into the last newsletter and really needs to get into the next newsletter. A brief discussion took place about a special mailing of the Collette travel material to the Friends membership under either the Newsletter Masthead or Letterhead.

G. *Fund Raising Committee (Bus Spaniola - Chair)*. Tom Truscott suggested that we hold a Junior High Tri County Jazz band contest. He indicated that he would look into this and come back with some details for consideration by the Board at a later meeting. Keith Harrison indicated the Friends should consider the possibility of allowing organizational membership and possibly charging \$75.00 per organization. President Spaniola requested each member to try to get five individuals to join the Friends. Phil Kwiatkowski indicated the museum could arrange behind the scenes tours as a special member benefits.

H. *Calendar (2010) Committee (Tom Truscott & Rose Moye, Co-chairs)*. The committee indicated that work on the 2010 calendar was progressing. It also was indicating that it was looking into including the dates of the various state free festivals that take place each year.

I. *Legislative Reception Committee (Paul Tarr – Chair)* – The committee indicated that it was still working on this. A March reception was being considered. The committee members are Paul Tar, Bill Wellman, Keith Harrison, Bus Spaniola, and Tom Truscott.

Old Business

A. *License Plates*. President Spaniola indicated the he is still pursuing this issue with newly elected legislator Mike Huckelberry from Greenville in order to see if this can finally be done.

B. *IRS Group Exemption Application Status*. There has been no notification regarding the Friends' letter application to the Internal Revenue Service for a Group Exemption Number.

C. *Archives*. No discussion took place.

D. *Telephonic Board Attendance*. Nothing has changed since the last meeting. The Board's current meeting location on the 1st floor of the Museum does not have telephonic capability.

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New Business

President Spaniola informed the Board that it had been invited by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States to lay a wreath at the tomb of Abraham Lincoln at the annual Lincoln Tomb program in April 18, 2009 in Springfield, Illinois.

A motion was made and seconded that up to \$250 be made available for expended on a Friend of Michigan History wreath; motion passed.

Geneva Kebler Wiskemann reminded the Board of the upcoming April 25, 2009 History Day program put on annually by the Michigan Historical Society. This year the program will take place at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan. She also indicated that there was a need for judges this year to help out.

A motion was made and seconded to provide \$450 to the Michigan Historical Society to pay for the three Best Entry in Michigan History papers (3 Divisions, \$150.00 each); motion passed.

Keith Harrison talked about the upcoming February 12th Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission Birthday celebrations in Washington DC.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 AM.

Respectively submitted,

Keith G. Harrison

Keith G. Harrison, Secretary
Board of Directors
Friends of Michigan History, Inc.

The next Board meeting will be Monday, March 9, 2009, in Lansing.

Attachments